

1. Title / Content Area:	Colorado Amusements
2. Historic Site:	Elitch Gardens Theatre
3. Episode:	<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/amusements-iutlxy/">https://www.pbs.org/video/amusements-iutlxy/</a>
4. Developed by:	Laura Israelsen, Denver Public Schools
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<p><i>Grade Level:</i> 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p><i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4</p> <p><i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i></p> <p>Content in this Document Based Question ( DBQ ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7</p>
6. Assessment Question:	Why was Elitch Theatre not moved when the park moved downtown?
7. Contextual Paragraph	<p>Amusement parks have not been around forever, even if people believe we had. They originated at the turn of the century with the popularity of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and once created, never stopped growing. Today, amusement parks are quite different than the original midways of the turn of the century, but still provide enjoyment to people of a variety of ages.</p> <p>Information on the Elitch Gardens Theatre can be located here:  <a href="https://historichelitchtheatre.org/about/theatre-history/">https://historichelitchtheatre.org/about/theatre-history/</a></p>



8. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>Many of the amusement parks from the turn of the century no longer exist, but elements of some remain as important landmarks and physical structures that document the importance of the time period just after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago when amusement parks and gardens flourished. Theaters were one of these structures.</p> <p>In Colorado, the Elitch Gardens Theatre was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and has been preserved through the efforts of a variety of partners including the Office of the Mayor of Denver, the History Colorado State Historical Fund, the Historic Elitch Gardens Theatre Foundation, and community members across the state and nation. It is significant for its architecture as an example of resort architecture which was popular at the turn of the century, and for the entertainment and theater industry because of the important theatrical names that performed in this location.</p> <p>Ongoing preservation efforts continue for both landmarks through partnerships in the community and collaboration with the History Colorado State Historical Fund.</p>	

## Document Based Question (DBQ)

### Document Set

Overview of Chicago Exposition



<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200198127/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the World's Columbian Exposition something that people admired?
2. What types of things were present at the exposition?
3. What large scale collection of activities at the exposition led to the creation of amusement parks across the nation?
4. What particular amusement park ride is recognized today as being created for the exposition?

A pretty avenue in Elitch's Garden, a popular pleasure resort, Denver, Col., U.S.A.



GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why would people from other regions in the United States want to see this picture of Elitch Gardens?
- 2) What was the photographer trying to portray in this photo?
- 3) How does this reflect the time period and the Columbian Exposition that was taking place?
- 4) In your opinion, is a place like this important to preserve? Why or why not?

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2018645676/>

Elitch Theatre



GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What features stand out to the observer in this image?
2. Why would this type of building be called “resort architecture”?
3. How does the design of the building make it stand out as important or recognizable?

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/fadb9865-a4dd-402a-b025-56436e685f95>

### Assessment Question

Why was Elitch Theatre not moved when the park moved downtown?

Or

How can a historic building, such as this theater, connect the past with the present?

Response